

**232.147 Confidentiality of juvenile court records.**

1. Juvenile court social records shall be confidential. They shall not be inspected and their contents shall not be disclosed except as provided in [this section](#) or as authorized by other provisions in [this chapter](#).

2. Official juvenile court records in cases alleging delinquency, including complaints under [section 232.28](#), shall be public records, subject to the following restrictions:

a. Records containing a dismissal of a complaint or an informal adjustment of a complaint when no petition is filed relating to the complaint, shall not be available to the public and may only be inspected by or disclosed to the following:

- (1) The judge and professional court staff, including juvenile court officers.
- (2) The child's counsel or guardian ad litem.
- (3) The county attorney and county attorney's assistants.
- (4) The superintendent or the superintendent's designee of the school district for the school attended by the child or the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school attended by the child.

(5) A member of the armed forces of the United States who is conducting a background investigation of an individual pursuant to federal law.

(6) The statistical analysis center for the purposes stated in [section 216A.136](#).

(7) The state public defender.

b. Official juvenile court records containing a petition or complaint alleging delinquency filed prior to January 1, 2007, shall be public records subject to a confidentiality order under [section 232.149A](#) or sealing under [section 232.150](#).

c. Official juvenile court records containing a petition or complaint alleging delinquency filed on or after January 1, 2007, shall be public records subject to a confidentiality order under [section 232.149A](#) or sealing under [section 232.150](#). The official records shall not be available to the public or any governmental agency through the internet or in an electronic customized data report unless the child has been adjudicated delinquent. However, the following shall have access to official juvenile court records through the internet or in an electronic customized data report prior to the child being adjudicated delinquent:

- (1) The judge and professional court staff, including juvenile court officers.
- (2) The child's counsel or guardian ad litem.
- (3) The county attorney and the county attorney's assistants.
- (4) A court, court professional staff, and adult probation officers in connection with the preparation of a presentence report concerning a person who prior thereto had been the subject of a juvenile court proceeding.
- (5) A state or local law enforcement agency.
- (6) The state public defender.
- (7) The division of criminal and juvenile justice planning of the department of human rights.

d. If the court has excluded the public from a hearing under [division II of this chapter](#), the transcript of the proceedings shall not be deemed a public record and inspection and disclosure of the contents of the transcript shall not be permitted except pursuant to court order or unless otherwise provided in [this chapter](#).

e. Complaints under [section 232.28](#) shall be released in accordance with [section 915.25](#). Other official juvenile court records may be released under [this section](#) by a juvenile court officer.

3. Official juvenile court records in all cases except those alleging delinquency shall be confidential and are not public records but may be inspected and their contents shall be disclosed to the following without court order:

- a. The judge and professional court staff, including juvenile court officers.
- b. The child and the child's counsel.
- c. The child's parent, guardian or custodian, court appointed special advocate, and guardian ad litem, and the members of the child advocacy board created in [section 237.16](#) or a local citizen foster care review board created in accordance with [section 237.19](#) who are assigning or reviewing the child's case.
- d. The county attorney and the county attorney's assistants.

e. An agency, association, facility or institution which has custody of the child, or is legally responsible for the care, treatment or supervision of the child.

f. A court, court professional staff, and adult probation officers in connection with the preparation of a presentence report concerning a person who prior thereto had been the subject of a juvenile court proceeding.

g. The child's foster parent or an individual providing preadoptive care to the child.

h. The state public defender.

4. Official juvenile court records enumerated in [section 232.2, subsection 38](#), paragraph "e", relating to paternity, support, or the termination of parental rights, shall be disclosed, upon request, to the child support recovery unit without court order.

5. Pursuant to court order official records may be inspected by and their contents may be disclosed to:

a. A person conducting bona fide research for research purposes under whatever conditions the court may deem proper, provided that no personal identifying data shall be disclosed to such a person.

b. Persons who have a direct interest in a proceeding or in the work of the court.

6. a. Inspection of social records and disclosure of their contents shall not be permitted except pursuant to court order or unless otherwise provided in [this subsection](#) or chapter.

b. If an informal adjustment of a complaint is made pursuant to [section 232.29](#), the intake officer shall disclose to the victim of the delinquent act, upon the request of the victim, the name and address of the child who committed the delinquent act.

7. Social records prior to adjudication may be disclosed without court order to the superintendent or superintendent's designee of a school district, authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school, or any other state or local agency that is part of the juvenile justice system, in accordance with an interagency agreement established under [section 280.25](#). The disclosure shall only include identifying information that is necessary to fulfill the purpose of the disclosure. The social records disclosed shall be used solely for the purpose of determining the programs and services appropriate to the needs of the child or the family of the child and shall not be disclosed for any other purpose unless otherwise provided by law.

8. Subject to restrictions imposed by sections [232.48, subsection 4](#), and [232.97, subsection 3](#), all juvenile court records shall be made available for inspection and their contents shall be disclosed to any party to the case and the party's counsel and to any trial or appellate court in connection with an appeal pursuant to [division VI of this chapter](#).

9. The clerk of the district court shall enter information from the juvenile record on the judgment docket and lien index, but only as necessary to record support judgments.

10. The state agency designated to enforce support obligations may release information as necessary in order to meet statutory responsibilities.

11. Release of official juvenile court records to a victim of a delinquent act is subject to the provisions of [section 915.24](#), notwithstanding contrary provisions of [this chapter](#).

[C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §232.54, 232.57; C79, 81, §232.147; [82 Acts, ch 1209, §16](#)]

[83 Acts, ch 186, §10057, 10201](#); [84 Acts, ch 1208, §2](#); [90 Acts, ch 1271, §1508](#); [92 Acts, ch 1195, §301](#); [93 Acts, ch 172, §35, 56](#); [95 Acts, ch 191, §15](#); [96 Acts, ch 1110, §3](#); [97 Acts, ch 164, §4](#); [98 Acts, ch 1090, §63, 83, 84](#); [2000 Acts, ch 1123, §2](#); [2001 Acts, ch 79, §1](#); [2005 Acts, ch 55, §2](#); [2006 Acts, ch 1164, §1](#); [2006 Acts, ch 1185, §76](#); [2009 Acts, ch 41, §263](#); [2013 Acts, ch 116, §3](#); [2015 Acts, ch 58, §1](#)

Referred to in [§13B.4B, §135L.3, §216A.136, §228.6, §232.19, §232.91, §232.101A, §232.103A, §232.104, §232.149A, §232.150, §232.151, §232C.4, §235A.17, §280.25, §692A.121, §915.10A, §915.25](#)

Subsections 1, 2, 3, and 8 amended